Dear Howard, 3/2/78

After you phoned to let me know that you would like to be able to practise in Washington and with Jim I wrote Dave again to make some specific efforts toward foundation support. He met with the chancellor, who was willing to proceed and told Dave how to take the initial steps. I have heard nothing since. I expect to see Dave shortly, on the mid-term break.

I have also been thinking about other means. It is to see if one possibility appears to be adequate that I write now.

The former Gasch law clerk who is the newest member of what Jim regards as the DJ Weisberg team, I think he said of about six, is bucking for brownie points. He has interposed objections to the agreed compensation I'm to receive for my consultancy to the DJ. (I've not had time to do anything with it lately, largely because of the weather and their failure to pay me, which would have enabled me to hire others to do what I've been doing-fighting the ice on the driveway.) Jim is angry over this and is willing to litigate. I agree. I believe there is no reason not to expect the agreed sum, $75.00 per hour.

This means that as of now DJ owes me about $7,500. It will come to more, surely over $10,000. I'm at the point where I can begin dictating. I've been needing time to be able to stay with it continuously, not work in brief snatches. Once I've dictated what I've reviewed I have more to review and then dictate.

If I let you have what I get from DJ, do you think it would be enough to keep you going long enough to get a start with Him? I hope it is.

Lil, by t e way, is in agreement.

It will mean no hardship for us. All I had planned to do with it is use it to replace it in our modest reserve against any emergencies.

Last year I spent more on FOIA matters than my gross income. We'd have recovered that from this sum. But we had no other plans for it. We definitiely did not plan to use it to live on. Perhaps in the future this might become necessary, but not now. By that possible future time I can see you and Jim as the Washington Boudins.

Moreover, we have no problems for this year because we have received the last of thepayments from the country(s taking of the farm.

In addition, while the sums are not great, we are now both drawing Social Security. My first check has come. I've offered it as an advance to one of Jerry McKnight's step-daughters, whose car was wrecked in a recent snow storm. She did well for me in filing the FBI's second release and is willing to work part-time helping me in such matters. She has not done it this week because her grandmother, who lives in Florida, is visiting. But she lives nearby and it will probably be a good arrangement. Pleasant girl, too.

I think you realize that if we were in need I'd not be doing such things.

If you think this is inadequate please let me know what else migh be required to make it possible. I see very real possibilities in this for all of us.

It is my belief and has been for a while that we've turned an important corner. Not just the Gesell and the Green/Time decisions and not just the changing DJ attitude the most recent example of which is the enclosed Shea letter. Even CIA is beginning to disgorge and apologize.

There also is much promise in the fee-payment provision of the amended Act. Jim is certain to be getting some good fees already and there are others that are certain in the future. We are filing only virtually already won suits. There are more to be filed. The only question is of time, Jim being that over-extended.

Where it is not as certain but where the facts and equities are is in damages. I believe we can do some good there, perhaps even get settlements, although we are far from this point.

(If we prevail on appeal in the Williams case that should be a whole new game. I think they'll offer a decent settlement rather than go to trial. They may, of course, seek to go higher on appeal.)

There are other areas where I believe litigation can lead to good recoveries. One is Lane and the Zorro/Flynt combination. You kjow some of his record of plagiarism. He is continuing it, as recently as theFlynt press conference of 2/6/68. I have a tape of it and he again claims my work as his and as uniwuely his. They have done it in Freep, which Flynt owns. And they have made the mistake I noted in their published offer.

(Lane says they are coming out with the same King offer. I'll do the same thing if and when they do. They are coming out with a King edition of Freep, where Lane is so bankrupt he has asked Gandolfo to write an article for it.)

I am not going into all but I believe the possibilities are present and and promising.

Besides this Jim believes he is at the point of doing well in his practise, needing only help to enable it. A good partner makes it possible.

I think you'd both be happy in a partnership and that you ll be happier not having to take the traditional role of going into a firm and doing what you'd hate doing. I do think the only question is of surving a start. That is what I'm trying to address.

There also could be part-time work for Duane. Jim and I now have good dictating machines. I assume he'd be getting a regular job and that he could work after hours transcribing. Jim has one such arrangement now, just beginning. While I do not know I believe the kind of work he is doing now should be available. If I am correct this should give you both an initial cushion.

The King possibilities are very real. Blew Les Payne's mind when I showed him some. Whether or not the Ray case can be turned around there is enough, much more than enough, to require a reopening, with any attention. I've not tried to evaluate the consequences of the Lane whoring around or the Ray insanities but Jim and I have accomplished a quite detachment that makes us free and in no way encoumbered by all these bad things. My view is that in the end they'll help. We have no complications from any association with Ray and we have no need of any of them. We are independent. Wait until you can see the stuff I have. Aside from Jim only Les Payne has and he saw only a little. I now have the FBI's misrepresented work that totally confirms my own. The crime was as I said it was, even whet from where I said. And the evidence is total, not just indicated or suspected. With such small touches as this: the first to reach the fallen body was the major fink. Captured on film, too.

You can make a very big difference now.

And I think all interests coincide.

Time for my a.m. news exercycling.

Please let me know as scon as you can.

Best,